

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
AUSTIN 12

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
College of Agriculture
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

Thanks very much for the cultures which arrived in good shape.
We haven't done anything with them yet.

One of my students has undertaken to attempt to isolate a variety of vitamin B₆-requiring mutants of E. coli. We hope to use these in determining something about the biosynthesis of this vitamin. So far, however, almost all of the mutants that she has obtained by u. v. irradiation and the penicillin technique have been found to revert very readily to B₆ synthesis when cultured in liquid media. Do you have any comments on this? In your experience, have you met up with very many stable B₆ mutants? Finally, is reversion too serious a problem if one works on agar plates the way Davis does rather than in liquid media as we have been attempting to do? A one sentence answer to each of these questions or a reference to a pertinent statement in the literature concerning them would be much appreciated if you have the time.

I am sending separately a variety of reprints which have appeared since I last saw you.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Esmond E. Snell

EES:mmm